REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated June 11, 2008. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 stand rejected for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102 based on U.S. patent number 6,697,840 of Godefroid et al. ("Godefroid et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As previously noted, Godefroid et al. disclose presence awareness initiatives implemented in a collaborative system that enables a user to set presence awareness policies, and that provides a reasonably high assurance that the system will correctly implement those policies. The collaborative presence awareness system of Godefroid et al. enables users to specify presence awareness policies, and includes tools to establish a level of assurance that the presence awareness system has the capability to implement correctly, substantially all possible presence awareness policies. The presence awareness policy specifications of Godefroid et al. are modular relative to the rest of the presence awareness system, and can be modified without having to modify computational modules or user interface program code of the presence awareness system. A user of the Godefroid et al. system can update his or her presence information. The Godefroid et al. system automatically collects presence information about the user and automatically updates his or her presence information. The presence awareness system of Godefroid et al. may use specification-based testing at run-time to monitor whether some users' presence awareness policies have inadvertently been violated, further strengthening the reliability of the system. See Abstract.

In column 5, lines 15-18, <u>Godefroid et al.</u> specifically teach that a user interface sends the messages to the rest of a presence awareness system indicating login, logout, screensaver(on), and screensaver(off) events. Further in column 5, beginning at line 19, <u>Godefroid et al.</u> teach that a user may inquire about the presence of other users. As described in lines 21-31 of column 5, the inquiries of <u>Godefroid et al.</u> may relate to a user's interest in the login status of another user, the screen saver status of another user, whether another user is in a collaborative session, the other user's indicated willingness to interact (a "door" status), access rules and settings of the other user, and the other user's calendar, location, phone number, email address, and real name (in the case of anonymous participation). For these user activities, the <u>Godefroid et al.</u> user interface sends check-availability (X), check-name(X), check-chatters(X) messages to the rest of the presence awareness system, and receives available(X), unavailable(X), name(real(X), pseudo(Y)), and chatters(SID, SetOfChatters) messages from the presence awareness system, where each chat session is identified by a globally unique id "SID", as described in lines 41-48 in column 5.

Nowhere in <u>Godefroid et al.</u> is there disclosed or suggested any system for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information regarding instant messaging sessions of remote users, including:

> *sensing, at a remote computer system, the number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of said remote computer system, wherein said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system is a total number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system, and wherein said total number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system is a plurality of instant messaging sessions;*
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> conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said remote computer system to an awareness server application process;

conveying said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system from said awareness server application to an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system; and

presenting, by said awareness client application process, said number of instant messaging sessions associated with said user of said remote computer system in a display for said local computer system. (emphasis added)

as in the present independent claim 1. In contrast, Godefroid et al. teaches that inquiries may be made relating to a user's interest in whether another user *is currently in any collaborative session.* Thus the status of a remote user is the same in Godefroid et al. when the remote user is currently in a single collaborative session, and when the remote user is currently in multiple sessions. Nothing in Godefroid et al. provides any suggestion of even the desirability of performing any determining (e.g. counting) of the total number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of a remote computer system, wherein the number of instant messaging sessions is a plurality of instant messaging sessions. Moreover, the teachings of Godefroid et al. similarly do not disclose or suggest presenting such a total number of instant messaging sessions associated with the user of the remote system in a display for the local computer system, as is also set forth in the present independent claim 1.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Godefroid et al. does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present independent claim 1. Accordingly, Godefroid et al. does not anticipate the present independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and dependent claims 2-3 and 8-10 are respectfully believed to be patentable over Godefroid et al. for at least the same reasons.

Claims 4-7 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on the combination of Godefroid et al. and U.S. patent number 7,124,372 of Brin ("Brin"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As explained above with reference to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102, Godefroid et al. does not disclose or suggest performing any determining of a total number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of a remote computer system, wherein the number of instant messaging sessions is a plurality of instant messaging sessions. Adding the disclosure of Brin to Godefroid et al. fails to remedy the shortcomings of Godefroid et al. alone in this regard. Brin discloses a system that is capable of storing a time stamp in association with a specific portion of text (see Fig. 4B). However, like Godefroid et al., Brin includes no teaching or suggestion of determining the total number of instant messaging sessions associated with a user of a remote computer system, or of presenting a total number of instant messaging sessions associated with the user of the remote system in a display for the local computer system, as in the present independent claim 1, from which claims 4-7 depend.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Godefroid et al. and Brin does not disclose all the features of the present independent claim 1, and accordingly does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the present independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103. As claims 4-7 depend from claim 1, they are respectfully believed to be patentable over the combination of Godefroid et al. and Brin for at least the same reasons.

Applicants have amended claims and cancelled claims from further consideration in this Application. Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by unamended and/or cancelled claims is not patentable. The claim amendments and cancellations were made solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue additional claims, including the subject matter encompassed by unamended or canceled claims, in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

__December 8, 2008_____   ____/David Dagg/_____
Date   David A. Dagg, Reg. No. 37,809
                                                              Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
                                                              44 Chapin Road
                                                              Newton MA 02459
                                                              (617) 630-1131

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